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Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development: monitoring of population programmes, focusing on sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Migration is a key feature of the globalized twenty-first century, and human mobility is a cornerstone of inclusive and sustainable development. International and internal movements into cities are contributing to urban growth and creating highly diverse centres of human settlement with the potential to enhance cross-cultural understanding and stimulate development.

Human mobility can be motivated by conflict, humanitarian crises or situations in which people feel that their prospects are limited or their human rights are threatened or violated. People moving in response to poverty, lack of opportunity, conflict or crisis are often highly motivated to find places with better prospects. Such is the case for large numbers of young people migrating into and through cities in search of a better future.

As part of their migratory experience, individuals can move between different migrant categories. While some may be classified as refugees for decades, others transition from displaced person to internal migrant and possibly to international migrant or refugee as circumstances and locations change. Regardless of their status, the support for vulnerable, mobile populations should be universal and address their need for both subsistence and development. Interventions dedicated to meeting basic

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needs such as health, education, housing and decent work for mobile populations should pay equal attention to such needs among national populations.

The present report, submitted pursuant to Commission on Population and Development decision 2017/101, adopted by the Commission at its fiftieth session, in which the Commission decided that the special theme of the fifty-first session, in 2018, would be "Sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration", and prepared by the United Nations Population Fund, provides a brief summary of recent patterns of human mobility, followed by programmatic examples of how the principles and values of the Programme of Action are being applied to support people on the move and to promote the sustainable development of cities.

I. Human mobility: an overview

1. Mobility is a key feature of the twenty-first century, and adjusting to a world with human mobility within and between countries is essential to achieving inclusive and sustainable development. It is a global phenomenon, with an estimated one in seven people in the world an internal or international migrant, accounting for an estimated 1 billion persons worldwide.

2. People move for a variety of reasons, including for work, family reunification or education, or to escape poverty, violence and discrimination, the effects of climate change or environmental degradation. Unprecedented numbers of people have been forced to flee their homes and are currently displaced within their own countries or across borders.

3. Mobility presents opportunities to escape poverty and can bring tangible benefits for migrants and their families, as well as for local communities and national economies. Especially when their rights are protected, migrants and refugees can contribute to the human, social and cultural development of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. According to the World Bank, in 2017 remittance flows worldwide were projected to reach $596 billion, of which low- and middle-income countries were projected to receive $450 billion.[1] Diasporas, migrant networks and returning migrants can foster the transfer of skills and technology, enhance innovation and transform traditional roles and social barriers, in particular for women and youth. In countries of destination, migrants provide needed labour in key sectors, alleviating shortages.

A. International migration

4. According to the latest estimates from the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 258 million people, or 3.4 per cent of the world's population, lived outside their country of birth in 2017.[2] Those figures, which include refugees and asylum seekers, are approximate, given the scope and complexity of irregular migration.

5. Two thirds of all international migrants (165 million) live in high-income countries. The United States of America hosts the largest number of international migrants (49.8 million), followed by Saudi Arabia, Germany and the Russian Federation (about 12 million each).

6. Of all international migrants, the largest proportion was born in Asia (41 per cent), followed by Europe (24 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean (15 per cent) and Africa (14 per cent). Those proportions do not reflect the distribution of the global population, as 60 per cent of the global population resides in Asia, followed by 16 per cent in Africa, 10 per cent in Europe and 6 per cent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Despite ranking second in terms of world population, Africa ranks last among migrant-sending regions.[3]

[1] World Bank, "Migration and remittances: recent developments and outlook — special topic: return migration", Migration and Development Brief 28 (October 2017).

[2] United Nations, "Trends in international migrant stock: the 2017 revision — documentation" (POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2017).

[3] Giovanni Carbone, ed., *Out of Africa: Why People Migrate* (Milan, Ledizioni LediPublishing, 2017).

B. Forced displacement

7. In 2016, over 65.5 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide, and among them were nearly 22.5 million refugees, 40.3 million internally displaced persons and 2.8 million asylum seekers.[4] Some 84 per cent of all refugees and asylum seekers live in low- and middle-income countries. The countries most affected in 2016 by new forced displacements included the Democratic Republic of the Congo (922,000), the Syrian Arab Republic (824,000), Iraq (659,000), Afghanistan (653,000), Nigeria (501,000) and Yemen (478,000).[5] Since late 2017, more than 647,000 Rohingya refugees have fled violence in Myanmar, most travelling overland to Bangladesh.

8. Displacement exacerbates the risk of statelessness. Generating lost identity records or securing documentation from Governments under siege can be particularly difficult. Based on recent estimates by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are at least 10 million stateless persons worldwide, with statelessness obstructing access to education, health care and employment.

9. The Horn of Africa faces a complex mix of social, economic, political and environmental challenges that have resulted in unusually prolonged displacement of people both within and across countries. Recently, the region generated over 2 million refugees and hosts approximately 1.7 million, the majority of them Somali and South Sudanese. Ethiopia is currently battling its worst drought in decades, affecting close to 700,000 people. Elsewhere in Africa, conflicts and persecutions have recently led to the forced displacement of almost 270,000 people from Mali into Burkina Faso, Mauritania and the Niger.

10. Western Asia, including Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, experienced almost 2 million new displacements in 2016. As at January 2018, UNHCR counted 5,481,135 registered Syrian refugees. That figure includes 2 million Syrians registered in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, 3 million Syrians registered by the Government of Turkey and more than 30,000 Syrian refugees registered in North Africa. The current burden on neighbouring countries is extraordinarily high, taxing all systems of support. The number of Syrian arrivals in Europe in search of international protection is estimated at 10 per cent of all Syrian refugees to date.

C. Age structure of migrants

11. While data on the age structure of migrants are often incomplete, the average age structure of international migrants displays a sharp rise after age 20, peaking at ages 30–34, before tapering slowly through the working years. Since migrants in each country account for a larger share of working-age persons compared with the national population, continued positive net migration may lower the dependency ratio of the receiving country.[6]

12. The age structure of international migrants residing in Asia shows a clear peak among young working-age adults ages 25–39, while in Africa the regional average

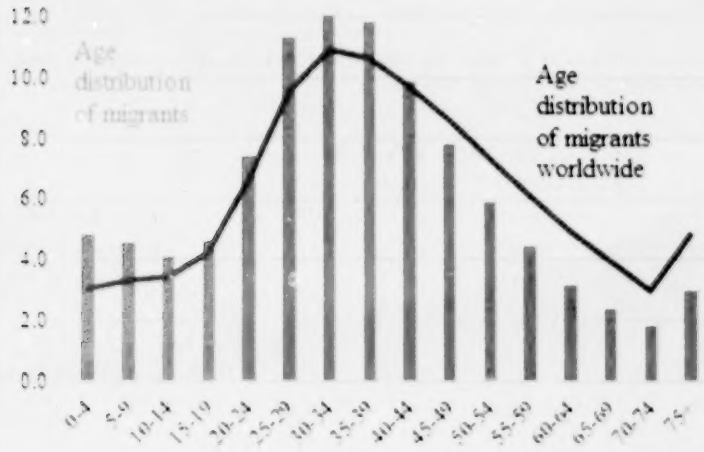
[4] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2016* (Geneva, 2017).

[5] Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2017* (Geneva, 2017).

[6] *International Migration Report 2017* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.18.XIII.4).

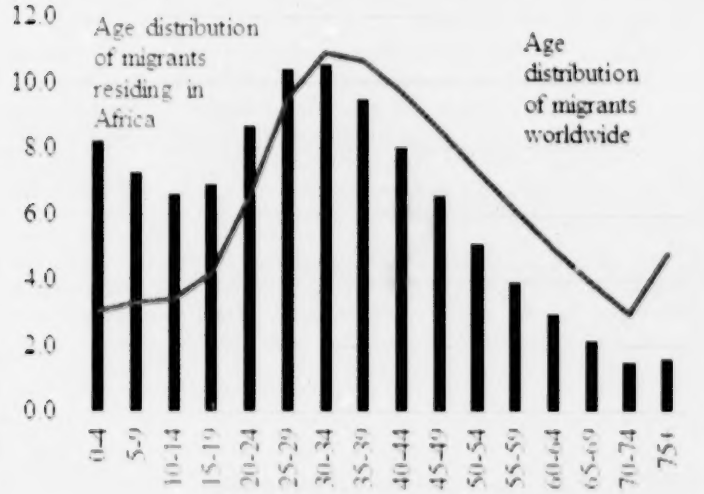
includes more children (see figures I and II). In both Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, there are more persons aged 0–24 among international migrant populations relative to other regions.

Figure I
Age distribution of international migrants (both sexes) residing in Asia compared with the age distribution of the total migrant stock worldwide (2017)



Source: Data extracted from International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision.

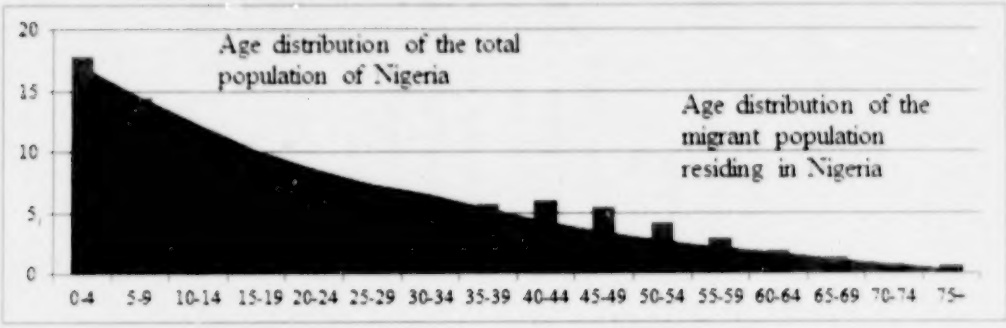
Figure II
Age distribution of international migrants (both sexes) residing in Africa compared with the age distribution of the total migrant stock worldwide (2017)



Source: Data extracted from International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision.

13. The predominance of young working-age persons among international migrants is widespread. For example, nearly two thirds of Mexican-born immigrants living in the United States are between the ages of 18 and 44 years, while the same age group among the native population represents only 35 per cent of the population.[7] The international migrant population in Nigeria has a bimodal shape, with a predominance of young adults between the ages of 20 and 40 years and of very young children, when contrasted with the overall population of Nigeria (see figure III).

Figure III
Percentage distribution of international migrants (both sexes) in total migrant stock, and total population, 2017 in Nigeria



Source: Data extracted from International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision.

D. Mobility of women and girls

14. Male and female participation in international migration is relatively balanced, with female migrants accounting for an estimated 48.4 per cent of all migrants worldwide in 2017 and half of the world's refugee population comprising women and girls.[8]

15. Yet major geographic variations exist. While women are overrepresented among all migrants in Europe, North America, Oceania and Latin America and the Caribbean, they are largely outnumbered by men in Africa and Asia, particularly in Western Asia. For example, in 2015 women accounted for approximately 65 per cent of all migratory movements from Thailand, but only for 35 per cent from Bangladesh. Similarly, in 2017 61 per cent of migrants residing in Hong Kong were female, compared with 32 per cent residing in Saudi Arabia.

16. Female migrants display higher labour force participation rates (72.7 per cent) than non-migrants (63.9 per cent), and key sectors account for large movements of female labour; for example, one in every six domestic workers worldwide is an international migrant.[9]

[7] Sabrina Juran, *Crossing the Border: Measuring the Impact of International Migration on Human Development* (Randers, Denmark, Phoenix Design Aid, 2016).

[8] UNHCR, *Global Trends*.

[9] International Labour Organization (ILO), *ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology — Special Focus on Migrant Domestic Workers* (Geneva, 2015).

17. The voices of migrant women in Bangladesh,[10] China[11] and Ethiopia[12] speak to the empowerment that occurs with migration, suggesting that the fears and risks of migration may be outweighed by the chance that it offers to escape oppressive gender-based restrictions at home. Young women move to escape violations of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including forced marriage, female genital cutting/mutilation and lack of reproductive choices. However, mobility in the context of humanitarian crises may augment traditional practices. Child and forced marriage has been found to increase in displaced and stressed communities as an effort to secure protection for a young girl during periods of family dissolution and migration. Exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse, a threat for all women, is especially heightened during conflict, displacement and irregular migration and is a major source of trauma for female migrants.[13]

E. Internal migration

18. Internal migration is difficult to define, given the absence of statistical standards and variation in data sources and collection practices.[14] The latest global estimate of internal migration, published in 2005, stood at 763 million, suggesting that the number of internal migrants is approximately three times that of international migrants.

19. There are common patterns of internal movement towards urban areas and away from locations with high levels of agricultural labour. Census data from 58 countries suggest that internal migration reflects self-sorting by education: those with less education are more likely to move to contiguous (neighbouring) areas and remain in agricultural areas, while those with higher education migrate over longer distances to areas with more work of a professional nature.

F. Cities as destinations, gateways and springboards of development

20. The world's population is increasingly concentrated in urban areas, reflecting both internal and international migration. On average, the global urban population has increased by a factor of five over the past 60 years, and United Nations projections show continued urbanization in the decades to come. Approximately 900 million new urban residents are projected by 2030 and another 1.3 billion by 2050. At the same time, the world's rural population is projected to peak in 2022 and decline thereafter.

21. Urbanization and internal migration can lead to differences in age structure between urban and rural areas. In Latin America, internal migration has increased the proportion of people aged 15–29 in large cities (over 500,000 people), reflecting high youth migration to cities, while smaller cities and towns are seeing a decrease in the share of young people. In Panama, for example, the proportion of people aged 15–29

[10] Sidney Ruth Schuler and others, "Is women's empowerment contributing to a decline in intimate partner violence against women in Bangladesh? Evidence from a qualitative study", *Studies in Family Planning*, vol. 44, No. 3 (September 2013).

[11] Arienne M. Gaetano and Tamara Jacka, eds., *On the Move: Women and Rural-to-Urban Migration in Contemporary China* (New York, Columbia University Press, 2004).

[12] Adamnesh Atnafu and others, "Poverty, youth and rural-urban migration in Ethiopia", Working Paper 17 (Brighton, Migrating out of Poverty, July 2014).

[13] United Nations, Population Division, "Cross-national comparisons of internal migration: an update on global patterns and trends", Technical Paper, No. 2013/1 (New York, 2013).

[14] E/CN.9/2018/2.

in small cities and towns dropped by approximately 6 per cent between 1990 and 2000, and again between 2000 and 2010.[15]

22. In Africa, the age structures of urban and rural populations are starkly different from one another. For the continent overall, the dependency ratio (those aged 15–64 years relative to those aged 0–14 and 65 and older) was 78.9 in 2015. For rural areas, the dependency ratio was 88.4, while for urban areas it was 66.5, indicating significantly higher proportions of working-age adults in urban areas relative to children and older persons.

23. Urban populations in some regions are augmented by the increasing placement of refugees within urban centres, with over 60 per cent of the world's refugees and 80 per cent of all internally displaced persons currently residing in cities. Local authorities and host cities can play a major role in supporting migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons and in shaping policies to promote their successful integration into host communities.[16]

24. Furthermore, evidence from numerous countries highlights the significant flow of internal migrants into cities as a first step to onward international migration, identifying cities as simultaneously being destinations and gateways with some of the highest population diversity.[17] According to a 2016 community survey in South Africa, more than half of all international migrants arriving in South Africa settled around the city of Johannesburg. At the same time, the number of internal migrants, almost five times higher than the number of international migrants, overwhelmingly moved into Johannesburg and Cape Town.

25. Migration into cities presents both opportunities and challenges: while cities have historically driven economic and social development, the geographic sprawl of unplanned urbanization and growth can actually hinder access and opportunity and exacerbate inequality. With increasing urbanization, more people live in slums, that is, in households characterized by a lack of one or more of the following: (a) access to an improved water source; (b) access to improved sanitation facilities; (c) sufficient living area; (d) housing durability; and (e) security of tenure.[18] Approximately 828 million people, or one in three urban dwellers and one in eight people in the world, currently live in slums.[19]

26. It is often said that people living in slums get caught in a "poverty trap", that is, by living in such conditions, they cannot improve their income or standards of living. The reality is more complex. For example, in South Asia slum populations include persons across a range of economic strata.[20] In two large slums of Nairobi, Korogocho

[15] Jorge Rodriguez Vignoli, "Cities and migration in Latin America and the Caribbean: updated estimates of key sociodemographic effects", paper prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration, New York, September 2017.

[16] Bruce Katz and Jessica Brandt, "The refugee crisis is a city crisis", Brookings Institution, 3 November 2017.

[17] Ronald Skeldon, "International migration, internal migration, mobility and urbanization: towards more integrated approaches", paper prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration, New York, September 2017.

[18] United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), "Institutional information: concepts and definitions".

[19] Jene Cates, "Poor living conditions for those who live in slums", blog, The Borgen Project, 6 July 2017; Ernestina Coast, "Health and the urban poor", LSE Cities, November 2011.

[20] Sangmoo Kim, "Does living in slums trap people in poverty?", World Economic Forum, 29 February 2016.

and Viwandani, many people exhibit a "circular" pattern of migration to and from rural areas, and some are relatively well off and even investing in additional properties and businesses.

27. In 2014, an estimated one fifth of the global foreign-born population lived in "gateway" cities, where migrants represent over a third (and in some cases more than half) of the population.[21] In some of those cities, population groups are highly segregated, but where populations are more integrated there is evidence that high levels of integration diminish the risk of discrimination.[22]

G. Risks of violence and discrimination in transit and at the destination

28. Protecting those transiting through their territories has become an increasing challenge for many countries because of the irregular and fast-changing nature of migratory movements. The most vulnerable are especially affected: according to estimates from the United Nations Children's Fund from May 2016, 95,000 unaccompanied refugee and migrant children[23] had reached Europe and thousands of vulnerable minors had vanished after registering with State authorities.[24] Since 2000, more than 46,000 migrants are estimated to have died in transit, and according to the Missing Migrants Project of the International Organization for Migration, in 2016 Governments recorded 7,927 total deaths and missing persons.

29. Women and young migrants, refugees and displaced persons are especially vulnerable to violence and discrimination, and separation from families and support networks in unfamiliar surroundings heightens risks of exploitation, violence and human trafficking for all. When mobility results in an unexpected demand for money, it can be associated with sexual favours in exchange for transit, protection or survival and with the ensuing risks of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, unplanned pregnancies or unsafe abortions.

30. In humanitarian crises, when many sexual vulnerabilities and risks are drastically increased, sexual and reproductive health information and care are often unavailable or inadequate. The Women's Refugee Commission[25] has argued that the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health care is among the leading causes of death, disease and disability among displaced women and girls of reproductive age. Because moving during pregnancy can increase risks to survival, pregnant women may remain behind while other family members venture to safer locations. Yet remaining behind is also risky, if factors leading to migration or displacement include the collapse of health services. In the Syrian Arab Republic before the conflict, skilled birth attendants had assisted 96 per cent of deliveries, but access to antenatal care,

[21] Ayşe Çağlar, "Urban migration trends, challenges and opportunities in Europe", background paper for the *World Migration Report 2015: Migrants and Cities — New Partnerships to Manage Mobility*, December 2014.

[22] Richard Alba, "Immigrant residential contexts in North America and Western Europe: how segregated? How unequal?" presentation prepared for the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Cities, Human Mobility and International Migration, New York, September 2017.

[23] United Nations Children's Fund, *Uprooted: The Growing Crisis for Refugee and Migrant Children* (New York, 2016).

[24] European Parliament, "Fate of 10,000 missing refugee children debated in Civil Liberties Committee", press release, 21 April 2016.

[25] Women's Refugee Commission, *Community Preparedness: Reproductive Health and Gender — A Facilitator's Kit for a 3-Day Training Curriculum* (New York, 2014).

safe delivery and emergency obstetric care diminished rapidly, and parts of the country currently have no reproductive health services.

31. The recent global attention to migration and refugees has heightened awareness of the complex issues of xenophobia, discrimination and violence towards mobile populations in receiving countries. The rise of terrorism and local problems of underemployment of young people in many countries has contributed to a rise in anti-immigrant sentiment, vocal anti-immigration political discourse and efforts to tighten borders.

32. Anti-immigrant sentiment seems to be particularly acute if jobs are scarce. Analysis of data from the World Values Survey collected in 2010–2014 and covering 57 countries around the world reveals that the proportion of people who would not like to have an immigrant or a foreign worker as their neighbour ranges from 1.7 per cent in Uruguay to 59.7 per cent in Malaysia, with a global median of 21.5 per cent. However, the proportion of respondents who feel that employers should give priority to natives over immigrants when jobs are scarce is far higher, ranging from 14.5 per cent in Sweden to 92.5 per cent in Jordan, with a global median of 71.1 per cent.[26]

33. Migrants frequently find themselves in vulnerable, informal employment and are exposed to much higher risks of exploitation, unsafe working conditions or abuse. The service sector, including domestic, caregiving, sex and entertainment work, where many migrant women are employed, is largely informal and poorly regulated. These characteristics enhance the risks of gender-based violence.[27] Gender-based violence against migrants also appears in the formal sector, with physical and verbal abuse, harassment and rape reported by migrant workers.[28]

34. Narratives from migrants, refugees and displaced persons also underscore the fact that the vulnerability of people on the move can change quickly. Fragile support networks, risks of attack or injury, and the need to navigate through unfamiliar languages and locations mean that security can be short-lived.

35. Despite those risks, the desire for a better life is strong. In a recent study by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), youth migrants in Cairo, Beirut and Tunis overwhelmingly report that their time in the city has been harder than expected and that they were not aware of the full risks of migration before leaving home. Almost 30 per cent of youth migrants in Beirut had experienced physical abuse, detention by security authorities or kidnapping. Despite the risks, young people in each of the three cities report that, even if they had known then what they currently know, they would still have migrated.

II. Advancing the Programme of Action in a mobile world

36. Member States have affirmed the need to ensure that human mobility is voluntary, regular and safe. Their commitments are prominent in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

[26] World Values Survey, Data Archive Online Survey Analysis database (accessed January 2018).

[27] UNFPA, "Voluntary migration, sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence: key issues and opportunities for further engagement for UNFPA", draft discussion paper, November 2017.

[28] UNFPA, "Sexual and reproductive health and rights: migrant garment factory workers in Cambodia", January 2015.

37. In 2016, the General Assembly held a high-level plenary meeting to craft a more humane and coordinated approach to large movements of refugees and migrants and, in its resolution 71/1, adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, expressing the political will of world leaders to save lives, protect rights and share burdens and responsibilities to host refugees.

38. The recognition that cities are major gateways and destinations for internal and international migrants contributed to commitments in the New Urban Agenda to integrate migration into the strategic planning and management of cities and urban systems while affirming the human rights of all inhabitants, regardless of a migrant's reasons for moving, length of stay or legal status.

39. The Programme of Action offers strong and compelling recommendations on the values that should guide both national and global approaches to large movements of refugees and migrants. Those values include recognizing the humanity, dignity and human rights of all persons, regardless of their status; recognizing the high social cost of inequality; and providing both security for development and the freedom to move.

40. Such principles are evident in many of the programmatic examples highlighted in the present section. Successful programmes suggest that interventions for migrant or refugee populations have greater success if they enhance the well-being of both mobile and local populations simultaneously, whether the programmes are focused on education, housing, employment or health. Programmes that emphasize universality not only enhance equality but also temper resentment in host communities where needs are widespread.

41. Many successful interventions in the present report also advance an approach to "treat the furthest behind first", regardless of migrant or refugee status. Given the transitory nature of the status of internally displaced persons, migrants and refugees, successful interventions recognize that at the core of such movements are individual people whose needs vary and change as they travel distances and cross borders in search of a better life.

A. Address drivers of migration through development

42. At the core of the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda are commitments to address the drivers of migration by creating a world where all persons are free from poverty, illness, discrimination, violence and the consequences of conflict or climate change. Development provides more individuals with the security, agency and means to reach their fullest potential at home. Because development also expands people's horizons and aspirations, it provides the means for people to migrate. Hence, the goal of development should be to provide a world where migration is a safe choice, never a necessity, and where the fruits of development are equally available to those who stay and to those who seek their fortunes afar.

43. As increasing numbers of the world's youth grow into adulthood in circumstances of unrest or poverty, migration becomes an ever more promising alternative. Recent UNFPA research has found that more than half of all youth migrants in Cairo, Beirut and Tunis moved owing to insecurity or political unrest back

home and, while a third of youth migrants in Tunis reported that they alone had made the decision to migrate, another third had been encouraged by their parents to do so.[29]

Advance prospects for a demographic dividend

44. Countries with a proportionately large cohort of working-age people have the potential to advance economic growth, in what is often called a "demographic dividend".[30] However, such a dividend will be achieved only if Governments increase investments to ensure that young people can have a prosperous future. For many countries, this includes improving the quality and reach of education and training, expanding opportunities for girls and women, including the chance to avoid early marriage and childbearing, and fostering job growth.

45. Strengthening vocational training and higher education will be critical in countries with large youth populations and should include portable skills aligned with regional employment opportunities. The potential for transnational and regional hubs of sector-specific training and industry, such as special economic zones, to stimulate regional development warrants more consideration, and should include the reform of immigration policies to facilitate the movement of young people across national borders for both training and employment.

46. Skills training and entrepreneurship for young people in urban areas of low- and middle-income countries seem to be having a critical impact, especially when targeting disadvantaged youth.[31] The Satya/Pratham programme in India,[32] for example, provides training in tailoring within resettlement colonies in New Delhi, serving both local and migrant young women. Participants in such programmes not only are more likely to be employed but also have higher earnings.

47. The Jóvenes en Acción programme in Colombia was introduced after the Colombian recession in 1998 to support youth aged 18–25 in the seven largest cities in the country, providing three months of in-classroom training and three months of on-the-job training. Vocational training ranged from information technology, data entry and accounting to administrative and manual occupations, with impressive results, including paid employment, particularly in the formal sector, and higher salaries for participants.[33]

B. Protect those in transit

48. The UNHCR 10-point plan of action for refugee protection and mixed migration, adopted in 2006 and revised in 2007, has been an important framework for

[29] Romesh Silva and Celine Mazars, "Preliminary findings from a 4-country study on youth mixed migration", paper presented at a UNFPA side meeting at the 28th International Population Conference of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Cape Town, October 2017.

[30] Daniel Schensul, Kathrin Weny and Rachel Snow, *Foundations for the Future* (New York, UNFPA, 2016).

[31] Jochen Kluve and others, *Interventions to Improve the Market Outcomes of Youth: A Systematic Review of Training, Entrepreneurship Promotion, Employment Services and Subsidized Employment Interventions* (Geneva, ILO, forthcoming).

[32] Pushkar Maitra and Subha Mani, "Learning and earning: evidence from a randomized evaluation in India", *Labour Economics*, vol. 45, issue C (2017).

[33] Orazio Attanasio, Adriana Kugler and Costas Meghir, "Subsidizing vocational training for disadvantaged youth in Colombia: evidence from a randomized trial", *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, vol. 3, No. 3 (July 2011).

advancing the rights of people in transit and strengthening protection mechanisms to combat smuggling, trafficking, extortion and forced labour. In 2000, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two supplementary protocols thereto, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

49. At the United Nations, UNHCR also leads the work on statelessness in four key areas, including identification, prevention, reduction and protection. Between 2003 and 2013, actions by Governments provided more than 4 million stateless people with the possibility of acquiring or confirming a nationality, and 12 countries removed gender discrimination from their nationality laws to ensure that children were not left stateless.[34]

50. Given the high risk of trauma in transit, it is critical to provide urgent support at arrival. To improve reception arrangements for irregular migrant flows between Costa Rica and Panama, UNHCR developed a joint capacity-building programme for agencies and officials from both countries. Since its implementation, the joint programme has substantially improved the coordination of international protection within reception arrangements for migrants, and it offers a valuable model to be explored by other countries sharing a major migrant border.

51. During a field assessment of risks faced by refugee and migrant women and girls in Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia conducted by UNHCR, UNFPA and the Women's Refugee Commission in November 2015, it was noted that women were particularly at risk and required additional protection measures.

52. UNFPA initiated a humanitarian initiative in Greece, the first ever emergency/humanitarian response programme in a non-programme country in Europe. Approaches enhanced coordination at the national and local levels, helped to establish models of care for integrated programming and supported implementing partners in providing direct services.

53. UNFPA experts conducted training on key topics in sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, providing many types of professionals with skills and guidelines to support not only migrants and refugees but all those in need, regardless of status. Staff of local hospitals and domestic violence shelters were trained on sexual and reproductive health in emergencies, the clinical management of rape, and gender-based violence in emergencies in Attica, Lesvos and Chios. In 2016, UNFPA trained 375 individual service providers working in various regions in Greece, both on the mainland (northern and central regions) and on the islands.

54. A hallmark of the programme was that the training benefited both the refugee population in 20 refugee/migrant camps and the host populations in the surrounding areas, covering a total catchment population of 145,793. In 2017, UNFPA supported the further training of 708 Greek first responders (medical, protection, social work, police, site managers, psychologists/psychiatrists, lawyers and other stakeholders) in sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence, including case management, legal frameworks and life skills for unaccompanied minor boys. The catchment areas covered by the programmes included refugees and migrants in camps and urban settings, as well as a host population of 381,761.

[34] UNHCR, "How UNHCR helps stateless people".

C. Integrate migrants and refugees into host communities

55. City conferences and mayoral networks have become an important forum for the exchange of knowledge, the sharing of good practice, and coordinated approaches to addressing migration. Mayoral leaders and urban policymakers, acknowledging the positive role that migrants can play in shaping such global cities as Nairobi, Mexico City, Bangkok, Dubai and London, have highlighted the pivotal role of local and regional governments in facilitating migrant integration, in particular by promoting language training, housing, security, and skills and entrepreneurship training.[35]

56. Municipal leaders are also committed to respect for and the protection and promotion of the non-discriminatory treatment of both migrants and refugees, facilitating their access to health services and education, and by making cities safer for all persons. Those political commitments have drawn from research, such as the 100 Resilient Cities report, in which it was found that cities that proactively incorporated migration into their urban planning were well positioned to transform and thrive and to become better places for everyone, especially the most vulnerable residents of the host populations.[36]

57. Cities are seeking to prevent violence, particularly against women, through safer transport systems. In Cairo, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development conducted audits on women's safety in partnership with local authorities, empowering women to identify the safety and security conditions in their neighbourhoods. Evidence from the audits has been integrated into the city's urban planning processes. A similar programme in Quito amended a local ordinance to combat sexual harassment in public spaces, to reduce violence in transport systems. Under the new legislation, trolley stops in Quito were transformed with glass corridors to provide secure transfer and waiting areas for women. In addition, metropolitan transport staff were trained to offer care and support and to simplify reporting of sexual harassment. By 2017, hundreds of cases had been received and transferred to the local court system. Mexico City also operates women-only buses as part of a commitment to ensure safer mobility, ease of reporting sexual harassment, and the provision of support for seeking justice. Vive Segura (Live Safe),[37] a mobile phone application, has also been developed to facilitate reporting of sexual violence and identify local risk areas.

58. Connectivity is a particularly valuable source of safety and guidance for people in unfamiliar surroundings. Recognizing that refugees spend approximately one third of their disposable income on staying connected, in 2015 engineers, designers, social entrepreneurs and non-governmental organizations created Techfugees (https://techfugees.com/), a non-profit organization, to address the communication needs of refugees. Working with municipalities in 26 countries, including Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan and Sierra Leone, Techfugees improves refugee access to the Internet and provides online and offline training for refugees and technological innovations for health.

59. To foster a welcoming attitude towards diversity among children, the Kinderwelten programme in Berlin fights prejudice by using storytelling and role

[35] Cities and Migration, "Global Conference on Cities and Migration", November 2017.

[36] 100 Resilient Cities, "Global migration: resilient cities at the forefront — strategic actions to adapt and transform our cities in an age of migration", September 2016.

[37] See http://vivesegura.cdmx.gob.mx/.

playing to help even the youngest children to adapt positively to diversity.[38] The programme has been successfully integrated into early childhood programmes to help children to adapt to ethnic and racial diversity, and offers an impressive model of early childhood intervention to enhance the values of non-discrimination.

Ensuring access to education

60. In the 2030 Agenda and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, Governments have affirmed quality education as a right for all refugee and migrant children, regardless of their legal status. Despite those commitments, international migrant and refugee children face many barriers to exercising that right, due to legal exclusions, gaps in information or translation, fear of violence and discrimination, and missing documentation, among other reasons.

61. Various countries have included mechanisms to assess and address challenges regarding migrant education in their national legislation, policies and practices. In Burundi, the Ministry of Education and local partners designed an integrated plan of action and budget in early 2007 to respond to the educational needs of repatriated families. Under the plan, the Government of Burundi provides for additional classrooms in areas of returning migrants, accelerated language education for repatriated children and other special programmes to address the educational needs of different categories of children.

62. Through the "Primary education for migrant children" project, the Governments of Guatemala and Mexico promote an intercultural approach to pre-primary and primary education for children of farmers, allowing migrant children to start and continue their studies in schools located on the farms on which they live.

63. In the Philippines, the migrant welfare fund pools financial contributions from Filipino migrants abroad or their overseas employers. Through the mechanism, members or their beneficiaries can gain access to scholarships and grants for a baccalaureate degree course.

64. Legislation in Argentina, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands each includes provisions on the right to education for irregular migrants. European policies recognize education as a key element of migrant integration. Important to the successful education of migrant children are respect for and the promotion of cultural heritage, support targeted to migrant children and the establishment of partnerships with local communities. Acknowledging that migrants display higher school dropout rates, in 2011 the European Union implemented targeted measures to reduce the number of early-school dropouts among migrant children. Measures to bridge the educational system and migrant families have been implemented in Australia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United States, among others.

Safe and accessible housing

65. The provision of secure housing is crucial to the health, safety and successful integration of migrants, refugees and displaced persons. A large but indeterminate number of people worldwide are homeless, and a common feature among homeless populations is an overrepresentation of recent migrants.

66. Addressing the housing gap is a particular challenge in contexts of high mobility and rapid urbanization, one that requires multiple approaches and stakeholders. Ethiopia and South Africa have among the largest government-led housing

[38] Cities of Migration, "Dolls and diversity: fighting prejudice with empathy", 18 May 2009.

construction programmes for the poor in Africa. South Africa aims to build 1.5 million new low- and no-cost homes from 2014 to 2019, after building millions since 1994 to reduce the housing gap amid rapid urbanization.[39] Ensuring sufficient services and maintenance, as well as locations close to economic activity, has been a major challenge. Ethiopia has built hundreds of thousands of units in and around Addis Ababa and other cities and towns and sought to spur homeownership through a mortgage system.[40] Yet both countries have seen significant increases in the price of land and housing due to competition for limited space, which have created challenges in maintaining affordability and accessibility for the poor.

67. New housing developments are ideally complemented by large-scale slum-upgrading programmes. Such programmes, when they engage and ensure the participation of local communities, can help to maintain the density of slums with greater liveability, health benefits and tenure security.[41] For instance, a large-scale programme called Piso Firme, implemented by the Government of Mexico, replaced dirt floors with cement floors. Dirt floors are a threat to health because they provide a vector for parasitic infections, especially in young children. Replacing dirt floors with cement floors was shown to improve child health among recipients and to provide multiple positive outcomes for households as a whole.[42]

68. Engaging other stakeholders for safe housing is vital as well. Habitat for Humanity responds to the needs of the urbanizing world by building decent and affordable housing for low-income households, referred to as "partner families", in over 70 countries around the world, and to date it has helped more than 4 million people to build, renovate or preserve homes.[43]

Address health needs

69. Meeting the health service needs of mobile populations is a major challenge for host cities and States. Migrants face many health challenges in both countries of transit and destination, with a significantly higher risk of maternal morbidity and mortality for foreign-born migrants compared with native-born women, a greater risk of HIV, and greater risks of trauma and violence. Many migrants reside in slums, areas characterized by higher risks of traffic accidents, disability and infectious disease; lower rates of vaccination; limited clean water and inadequate sewage systems; and less access to preventive and ongoing care.

70. Migrants generally have less access to health services, including reproductive health services, owing to language and information barriers, the inability to pay, lack of transportation and security, and discrimination by health personnel. Young international migrants in Tunis have reported discrimination within public health service settings and a high financial burden to gain access to the more welcoming private health-care facilities.

71. Yet evidence suggests that the returns on health investments for migrants are considerable. Enabling undocumented migrants to gain broader access to health care beyond emergency health services provides cost savings for health-care systems

[39] See www.gov.za/about-sa/housing.

[40] Sascha Delz, "Ethiopia's low-cost housing programme: how concepts of individual homeownership and housing blocks still walk abroad", paper presented at the No-Cost Housing Conference, Zurich, June–July 2016.

[41] A/CONF.226/PC.3/23.

[42] Laura Jaitman and José Brakarz, "Evaluation of slum-upgrading programmes: literature review and methodological approaches", Inter-American Development Bank Technical Note, No. 604 (2013).

[43] See www.habitat.org.

overall. For example, enabling pregnant, irregular migrant women to gain access to prenatal care has generated health-care savings of up to 48 per cent in Germany and Greece and up to 69 per cent in Sweden over a two-year period.[44]

72. Across a range of tested interventions to improve health-care access and delivery for migrants in Europe, effective components include targeting communication and ensuring access. Successful communication efforts include support for health worker language training, use of interpreters, provision of information in the migrants' native languages, and diversity and sensitivity training for health staff. The city of Bilbao, for example, promotes sexual and reproductive health information and services among immigrant women, including empowering women about local gender roles, through direct services, as well as through print and online resources in the multiple languages of migrants.[45]

73. Equally critical is expanding access by bringing services to areas where migrants, and young urban residents, are located, whether at the workplace, through urban mobile clinics or along transit routes.[46] Mobile health interventions continue to be important, including a policy implemented in the Long Bien industrial zone of Hanoi. Sexual and reproductive health information and services are provided through text messages to internal migrant girls working in factories. Results show that the intervention has measurably increased migrant women's sexual and reproductive health knowledge and practices,[47] and similar community-based texting models are garnering recognition worldwide.

74. In a major commitment to universal health coverage, the Government of Thailand has developed insurance schemes for documented and undocumented migrants and established dedicated migrant-friendly health services.[48] Such insurance schemes have been instrumental in facilitating migrant access to quality health services. The initiative has not only proved cost-effective for the Government in managing the costs of chronic disease for migrant workers but advanced the human rights underpinnings of the country's approach to universal health care.

Expand opportunities for employment

75. The expansion of labour market opportunities for international migrants and refugees is crucial but poses several policy challenges. The experience from Jordan is illustrative: as the Syrian crisis has been prolonged, the need for a sustainable approach to generating livelihoods has become increasingly acute for refugees in Jordan. Yet Jordan is confronting a shortage of labour market opportunities for Jordanian youth seeking to enter the labour force, which is the case in many States in the region. Recent research by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has

[44] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Cost of Exclusion from Health Care: The Case of Migrants in an Irregular Situation* (Luxembourg, Publications Office of the European Union, 2015).

[45] Cities of Migration, "Putting women's health in women's hands", 28 June 2012.

[46] Judit Simon and others, "Public health aspects of migrant health: a review of the evidence on health status for migrants in the European region", Health Evidence Network Synthesis Report 43 (Copenhagen, Health Evidence Network and World Health Organization, 2015).

[47] Lan Thi Hoang Vu and others, "mHealth information for migrants: an e-health intervention for internal migrants in Viet Nam", *Reproductive Health*, vol. 13, No. 55 (2016).

[48] Viroj Tangcharoensathien, Aye Aye Thwin and Walaiporn Patcharanarumol, "Implementing health insurance for migrants, Thailand", *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, vol. 95, No. 2 (February 2017).

highlighted the importance of developing approaches that synthesize labour rights and labour protections with domestic refugee policy.[49]

76. The Jordan Compact introduced several economic and labour market reforms, including reforms to the work permit and business formalization processes, opening up refugee camps to economic activity, and investment in special economic zones and infrastructure projects to provide opportunities for both refugees and Jordanian nationals and encourage economic growth. A more formal assessment of such initiatives is required to understand their impact on job creation for refugees and Jordanian nationals alike.[50]

77. In a programme focused specifically on young urban migrants in Casal da Boba, Portugal, the Generation Project was implemented in a municipality where more than half of the population is younger than 24 years old, with a high rate of undocumented migrants struggling with unemployment, poor schooling, crime and family instability. Integrating a strong private-public partnership between the city of Amadora and others, the programme provided training and professional opportunities, with good outcomes.[51]

78. Promoting job opportunities for both nationals and refugees offers the prospect of capitalizing on the range of skills and training in diverse communities and of advancing sustainable development for migrant and local communities in need. ILO has recommended regional coordination for the creation of innovative partnerships to advance the right to work, and to delineate roles and responsibilities within regional and international law.

D. Improve data on mobile populations

79. The collection of demographic data on migrant populations is not systematic. In virtually every thematic and regional consultation on a global migration compact, stakeholders have highlighted the urgent need to strengthen migration data and research. Accurate and timely migration data are essential to meeting the urgent needs of migrants and dispelling stereotypes.

80. Data sources on migration, migrants and refugees include population censuses, surveys, administrative records and demographic surveillance systems, among others, but many have long lead times, diminishing their value in circumstances of rapid population movements. Rapid on-site appraisals, such as registration systems, short surveys or service data, offer more immediate information for the provision of services. Satellite remote sensing or call detail records offer emerging possibilities for tracking mobile population flows and the location and needs of people in transit.

81. The Governments of Jordan and Zambia have pioneered integrating migration history and migrant profile modules into their censuses. The Zambian census in 2000 included detailed questions about the migration history of households and individuals, migrant/refugee status and livelihoods, which were subsequently used to guide protection initiatives. The Jordanian census in 2015 included questions on refugee status, migration history and housing conditions to understand differentials in health

[49] ILO, *Access to Work for Syrian Refugees in Jordan: A Discussion Paper on Labour and Refugee Laws and Policies* (Beirut, 2015).

[50] International Rescue Committee, "Evidence-based policy review: the Jordan Compact", 2017.

[51] Cities of Migration, "The Generation Project: community partnerships for youth", 16 November 2008.

status and social context between refugee, migrant and native-born individuals. Such data facilitate integrated policy and programme development.

82. It is also important to improve the available data on the living conditions and welfare of persons residing in slums, lest they be left behind in development tracking. If residents fear the authorities, they may prefer to be underrepresented in censuses and surveys, and highly mobile populations may simply be underenumerated because their dwellings and settlements are transient and not mapped. Global efforts to standardize definitions of what constitutes informal settlements and slums are needed to improve data comparability between countries and to allow standardized tracking over time by Governments to measure the success of related interventions.

83. The 2030 Agenda includes a commitment to strengthen national statistical systems and data capabilities by 2020, and efforts should be accelerated to ensure that they address the monitoring of mobile populations and those living in urban informal settlements and slums, to enhance collective efforts to leave no one behind and protect the dignity and human rights of all persons.

III. Recommendations

84. **States should embrace the contributions of migration and mobility to the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of countries of origin and destination alike, and to the global community.**

85. **States should support people's right to move internally as a means of improving their lives, and promote, protect and provide equal opportunities and access to social protection for all internal migrants.**

86. **States should capitalize on the opportunities that urbanization provides for sustainable development and undertake participatory planning to harness the benefits of higher population density in urban areas, recognizing the significant impact that internal migratory flows have on the development potential and innovation of urban areas.**

87. **States should develop rural-urban development plans, including through support for innovation and enterprise hubs and for special economic zones, and explore the potential for facilitating regional mobility for training and employment in order to promote opportunity and economic growth for those residing in urban centres, small and medium-sized towns and rural areas alike.**

88. **Investments in human capital development and policies to harness the potential for a demographic dividend should be informed by trends in youth mobility, including the predominance of movements from rural to urban areas, cross-border migration and the clustering of young people in urban areas. Interventions and opportunities should be strategically located where young people congregate.**

89. **States and municipalities should promote universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights for migrant and mobile populations, as well as for refugees and crisis-affected populations, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, family planning, information and education, HIV prevention and treatment and response to trauma and violence, as part of universal coverage of preventive and curative health services.**

90. **States and municipalities should promote initiatives that simultaneously improve access to education, training, housing and decent work for national populations in need and for migrants and refugees.**

91. **Transport systems should be rendered safe for all persons to ensure that mobility itself does not invite security risks for women and girls, or for migrants fearful of discrimination and violence, and the provision of safe spaces in urban areas should include systems that facilitate the reporting of violence and harassment and provide counsel to those affected.**

92. **States should be called upon to recognize the special vulnerabilities of women and girls among migrants and refugees, by implementing policies and programmes that measurably succeed in reducing gender-based violence, trafficking and exploitation during transit and at the destination.**

93. **States are encouraged to develop national policies and interventions to combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination against refugees and other migrants, advance their integration into host communities and promote a vision for safe, diverse and welcoming cities that accommodate the inflow and transit of mobile populations while protecting the rights of all people.**

94. **States are called upon to adopt policies to assist those without security of place, including those displaced by conflict or natural disasters, those in refugee circumstances, those living in areas of conflict, those in temporary or insecure housing, and the homeless; to improve the quality of all human settlements to ensure that all people have access to basic services, including water, sanitation and transportation, with particular attention to security and safety; and to provide safe housing for all.**

95. **Consistent with commitments in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both overseas official development assistance and domestic resources should be directed towards urgently improving national population data systems to enable the count and registration of all persons, regardless of migration status, without fear of repercussions, and to build capacity for the effective use of such data to improve the delivery of public services and to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.**

96. **In the context of the 2020 round of population censuses, all countries are strongly encouraged to include the core recommended questions related to migration, including questions on country of birth, citizenship and the year or period of arrival, in their census questionnaires and to ensure the timely analysis and dissemination of results.**